

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-12 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 PM-07

DRC-01 /170 W

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R 030930Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL KADUNA

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

SECSTATE WASHDC 2846

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LAGOS PASS IBADAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NI

SUBJECT: NORTHERN REACTION TO INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

1. IF THERE WERE A GALLOP POLL HERE, GOWON'S AND FMG STOCK NO DOUBT WOULD HAVE RISEN SHARPLY AS A RESULT OF OCT 1 SPEECH. THERE OBVIOUSLY SOME DISAPPOINTMENT ON PART OF WOULD-BE AND HAS-BEEN POLITICIANS WHO ANXIOUS FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE BUT SINCE THEY IN NO POSITION DO ANYTHING ABOUT SITUATION THEY ACCEPTING REALITY WITH RESIGNED SHRUG. NEEDLESS TO SAY VAST MAJORITY MILITARY COMMUNITY WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FMG WILL STAY BEYOND 1976. IN ANY CASE THAT PARTICULAR DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT EXACTLY UNEXPECTED.

2. THERE WAS MUCH IN SPEECH THAT WAS WELCOME TO NORTHERN EARS. OLD REVENUE SHARING FORMULA WAS CONSIDERED ANATHEMA BY MOST NORTHERNERS AND ANY CHANGE THAT LESSENS EMPHASIS ON DERIVATION IS IMPROVEMENT FROM NORTHERN POINT OF VIEW. COMING DOWN ON
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SIDE OF MORE STATES ALSO MEETS GENERAL APPROVAL OF NORTHERNERS.

(NOTE: ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN GROWING SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF MORE STATES IN NORTH, ISSUE ITSELF DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE CRITICAL ENOUGH TO CAUSE EXPLOSIVE REACTION IF DECISION IS MADE TO CREATE FEWER STATES THAN URGED BY VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF NORTH. SMG, NORTH CENTRAL STATE WHO SITS IN ON SMC MEETINGS INDICATED YESTERDAY HIS BELIEF THAT FMG WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACCEDE TO CALL FOR CREATION OF NUMEROUS NEW STATES BUT PROBABLY ONLY IN NORTH EAST AND WEST.). CENSUS HAS NOT BEEN ISSUE HERE AND THERE IS NO FEAR THAT LOCAL INTERESTS WILL SUFFER WHEN FINAL RESULTS IN. AS AGRICULTURE BASIS FOR NORTHERN ECONOMY, ANNOUNCEMENT OF INPUT INTO AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN NEXT DEVELOPMENT PLAN OBVIOUSLY WELCOME.

3. PERHAPS AS IMPORTANT AS THESE SPECIFIC FACTORS, HOWEVER, IS GENERAL REACTION THAT CLOUD OF UNCERTAINTY HAS BEEN REMOVED. GOWON AND FMG HAVE PROVIDED, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, AURA OF DIRECTION, CONFIDENCE AND COMMAND THAT WAS PERCEIVED AS LACKING IN THESE PARTS RECENTLY. LIKE ANY BURST OF PUBLIC OPINION, CONFIDENCE NOW REPOSED IN GOVERNMENT COULD PROVE EPHEMERAL IF INCIDENTS LIKE TARKA AND GOMWALK REPEATED BUT FOR MOMENT FMG AND GOWON ENJOY WIDESPREAD PUBLIC GOODWILL.
TRAIL

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